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EYES 1ST
PLACE

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HALIFAX

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Thursday, August 4, 2011
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News worth
sharing.

Superstar. Drops in



► Oscar winner and superstar Russell Crowe, left, turns heads in Newfoundland as he hangs out with Great Big Sea frontman and best pal Alan Doyle. They're pictured on the set of the CBC series Republic of Doyle in St. John's. Crowe is filming a guest spot. Watch video at metronews.ca.

PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crowe's rocking the Rock

Rain, rain ... HRM set for a three-peat

► Thunderstorms spark chaos and delays at airport ► About 5 mm of rain today
► But, hey, weekend should be wonderful



**ALY
THOMSON**
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

We're in for a third day of rain in the HRM.

Thunderstorms and rain starting Tuesday night caused major delays at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport, power outages and flooding on some fields and roads.

Linda Libby, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said a pool of cool air snuck up the coastline of Nova Scotia and with it came unstable air that caused showers and thunderstorms.

But that's slowly on it's way to Newfoundland, and looking ahead to the weekend, Libby said the skies will be brighter.

"We're looking at a clearing trend on Friday, with a mix of sun and cloud ... and then Saturday we should be sunny with tempera-

tures coming back to normal, which for Halifax is around 23 degrees."

Cindy Wheatley's restaurant was bustling with activity yesterday, but she wasn't taking orders or serving steaks.

The owner of Boneheads BBQ on Barrington Street was frantically putting the pieces together after Tuesday night's storm.

Her power was out for about nine hours, causing her entire inventory of fresh meat, produce and dairy products to spoil.

"It's a serious blow. We're a small business and we can't really afford to not be open for a day," Wheatley said.

Wheatley said she had more than a few bags of ice on hand.

"I'm keeping an eye on what's going on.... I'll come in and stock the fridges with ice if I need to," said Wheatley, who added her restaurant will reopen today.

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Between July 15th, and August 31st, 2011 HP will donate \$2 to Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada each time a participant touches the TouchPad screen and makes his/her impression, up to a maximum of \$100,000 CDN. All screen images simulated.

Kelly calling for fewer MLAs

Fresh on the heels of a political victory in slimming down the number of councillors, Mayor Peter Kelly is adding his voice to those suggesting fewer provincial politicians..

"I think it's time the province review its own structure and number (of MLAs) as well," Kelly said yesterday. "It's (a question)

that needs to come to the forefront."

Reducing the number of MLAs, according to Kelly, should be undertaken for both financial and operational efficiencies. While he admitted it's yet to be proven that fewer politicians necessarily results in efficiencies, he said the same logic from the UARB's

decision to reduce Halifax Regional Council size should apply.

Kelly's comments echo those made a few days ago by the Canadian Federation of Taxpayers, an anti-tax lobbying group. The organization sent a letter to Speaker Gordie Gosse on Monday outlining its desires of cutting MLAs, re-

drawing district boundaries to be an equal size, and ensuring no municipal district is larger than a provincial one.

The province requires district boundaries — and subsequently the number of MLAs — to be reviewed every decade. The next review will occur in 2012.

● ALEX BOUTILIER



► Mayor Peter Kelly

HRM still holds concert bill

► \$321,000 unpaid from concert cash-advance scandal ► HRM deems promoter MacKay's debt satisfied

It remains an open question whether or not Halifax Regional Municipality will repay to Trade Centre Limited the remainder of the sum used to make improper cash advances to promoter Harold MacKay, says the city's top bureaucrat.

HRM's Chief Administrative Officer Richard Butts said on Tuesday that municipal staff are still mulling over ways to recoup the \$359,550 advanced to but not paid back by MacKay for last year's concerts on the Common.

It was revealed Tuesday that MacKay agreed to pay back \$38,000 of the \$400,000 he was advanced for the Black Eyed Peas and Alan Jackson concerts. The municipality had been considering withholding necessary services for last

month's Metallica concert — put on by MacKay's wife.

Butts said the \$38,000 would go directly to Trade Centre Limited, who presented the municipality with the bill for the advances earlier this year.

But that doesn't necessarily mean the municipality will pick up the remaining \$321,550.

"That is still outstanding, absolutely," Butts said. "We made a reasonable attempt to satisfy the outstanding money, we did as well as we could and we made a deal."

Trade Centre Limited president Scott Ferguson was not available for comment yesterday. But TCL spokesman Neal Alderson said if the municipality has cut a cheque, it's news to him.

● ALEX BOUTILIER



► Metallica frontman James Hetfield roars into the microphone during his band's performance on the Garrison Grounds last month.

1
news



New theory blames 'big splat' for our not being able to gaze up at two moons each night. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at
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Oscar winner
Russell Crowe in
St. John's to film
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SMU plans to save cash by expanding

While universities across the province struggle with reduced provincial funding, Saint Mary's is taking a novel approach to saving money: by expanding.

The university is planning a new "north east campus project," expanding their TESL building at the corner of Tower Road and Inglis Street.

SMU is considering three variations on the expansion, ranging from 23,500 to 42,000 square feet. Early estimates for the cost of the project run from \$8 million to \$16 million.

The new building will bring several Saint Mary's

programs, such as the Business Development Centre currently housed on Barrington Street, back on campus.

"(It's an) effort to take sort of the tendrils of Saint Mary's that are out there in the community and bring them back to one campus," said Steve Proctor, spokesman for the university. "We're paying rent at the World Trade Centre, we're paying rent for the Business Development Centre.... This looked like an opportunity to save those (rent costs) by bringing them back on campus."

● ALEX BOUTILIER

MARIJUANA

Province zeros in on grow-ops

An aerial campaign to purge outdoor marijuana grow-operations starts today.

Grow-ops on Nova Scotia Crown land will be primarily targeted, said Sgt. Keith MacKinnon, the RCMP drugs and organized crime awareness co-ordinator.

"We find Crown land

is used fairly frequently because nobody owns it, so there's no trace back to the people who are perpetrating it."

Aerial fly-bys and tips guide the searches, and if plants are found, they are cut down and removed.

Information gathered on-site or through tips can lead to charges and prosecution as growers are identified.

"These people are sometimes involved with organized crime, more often than not," said MacKinnon.

● ALEX BOUTILIER

Dartmouth drug bust leads to two arrests

Police busted a marijuana grow-operation in a quiet Dartmouth neighbourhood yesterday morning.

RCMP found about 250 plants in a split-entry bungalow on Skeena Street at 7:30 a.m.

Two men, ages 33 and 28, were arrested and charged with production of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking and theft of electricity.

They were released to appear in court November 8, 2011.

● METRO

Stabbing victim not talking

A man who was stabbed in Fairview yesterday afternoon is not co-operating with police.

Sgt. Rob Lowther with the Halifax Regional Police said a man was found in front of a building on Frederick Avenue yesterday around 3:30 p.m. The man, who is in his early 20s, had been stabbed in the left side of his stomach, said Lowther.

He was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police are investigating the incident. ● METRO



► Fan favourites FlameOz will be back at the Halifax International Busker Festival this year.

A summer staple kicks off tonight

► Halifax International Buskers Festival runs from Aug. 4-14, 1-9 p.m. daily ► Artists will perform on Argyle Street on Aug. 5, 6, 12 and 13



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Kim Hendrickson has organized more than a few Halifax International Busker Festivals, so when she recently came across a souvenir from the first event 25 years ago, she just had to laugh.

"We sat here looking at it and it was just hilarious, with the sideburns and the mustaches on some of the performers," said Hendrickson, who has been with the festival for 20 years.

The event, now a summer staple for many Haligonians, has come a long way from featuring one-man musical acts and jugglers. On its 25th anniversary, more than 60 performers from across the globe will wow audiences with fire, acrobatics and much more, beginning today at 6:15 p.m.

"Most of the acts have been invited back because

they were past favourites in celebration of this milestone," said Hendrickson, adding Gazzo the magician participated in the festival during the 1980s.

Hendrickson reminisced about the days when she would hop on a plane to Europe to scout for artists to perform in Halifax, mostly at other busker festivals and events.

"Now with the Internet, they easily find us and send us applications and

we can go online and see what they do and watch their show to determine if they're the quality we want to bring in. That has changed drastically."

Hendrickson attributes the longevity of the festival to its accessibility and family-oriented atmosphere.

"If you're a family looking for entertainment, it's less expensive to go to the festival than it is to go to a movie. I think that's what keeps families coming back."

For a full list of performers, visit buskers.ca.

● ALY THOMSON

Highlights from the Busker Festival

FlameOz (fire acrobatics, Australia)

Winners of the last two people's choice awards, FlameOz returns to Halifax with their unique fire show. Five world-class performers will light up the night with their imagery,

circus artistry and fire dances.

Fraser Hooper (mime/comedian, United Kingdom) Fraser Hooper's show features classic clowning, comedy and eccentric dances. An award-winning clown, Hooper pays hom-

age to the great silent comedians with a contemporary edge.

Peter Rabbit (bucket drummer, United States) Peter Rabbit began performing on the streets of New York City. He was later cast as one of the origi-

nal members of Bring in da Noise, Bring in da Funk, and has performed with artists such as the Neville Brothers and Kanye West.

For a full list of performers, visit buskers.ca.

● ALY THOMSON

Shanghai family discovers the beauty of good advice on Atlantic shore

While an eye for beauty is similar around the world, banking methods are very different in a new country, according to Quanhong Chen, who brought his family to Canada in 2009.

Drawn to Atlantic Canada's peaceful beauty, Mr. Chen and his wife Li – successful beauty professionals from Shanghai – soon realized the challenges of settling in a foreign land. Fortunately, they found solid financial advice, in their native language, to unveil their goal of homeownership by the sea.

By chance, during a tour of Halifax, the family's creative spirit was ignited when they stumbled upon a house that matched Mr. Chen's aesthetic ideal. "I always dreamed of a home with a view of water, trees and flowers," he recalls, describing the six-bedroom home on Bedford Basin that bore no comparison to their cramped Shanghai apartment.

But beauty seemed fleeting when their bank offered them unattractive mortgage terms due to their short Canadian credit history. On the suggestion of a friend, they visited Scotiabank where they were greeted by a Mandarin-speaking personal banking officer who explained all the details of home-buying in Canada.

"This was our first mortgage ever and we didn't know anything about the real estate market," says Mr. Chen. He notes that the Scotiabanker took the time to carefully explain the various mortgage options.

In fact, Scotiabank has earned considerable praise from immigrants for offering tailored services such as the **Scotiabank StartRight®** Program¹ for Newcomers, which includes a free day-to-day bank account for one year², a wide range of VISA® card options³ and a number of other customized services and benefits.

A year after moving into their seaside home, the Chens are very happy with the service they received from Scotiabank, and Mr. Chen also appreciates the good advice he received in his native tongue, "It was so important to have a banker from our own culture who could give suitable advice. A mortgage is a very serious decision and it's hard to talk about this topic in a new language."

Mr. Chen also advises other newcomers to seek quality counsel from a banker who understands their concerns, including the need for credit upon arrival to help cover high settlement costs.

Now the Chen family is busy, both enjoying and enhancing the local beauty, as operators of the Cantrust Salon in Clayton Park, Halifax. "While business and banking are different here, beauty is the same – we love the friendly people, and we feel positive about our future."

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Mubarak court proceedings begin

► About 50 supporters pounded the gate trying to gain access ► Some chanted, 'We love you, Mubarak'

An ailing 83-year-old Hosni Mubarak, lying ashen-faced on a hospital bed inside a metal defendants cage with his two sons standing protectively beside him in white prison uniforms, denied charges of corruption and complicity in the killing of protesters at the start of his trial yesterday.

The spectacle, aired live on state television, was a stunning moment for Egyptians. Many savoured the humiliation of the man who ruled for 29 years, during which opponents were tortured, corruption was rife and poverty widespread.

After widespread skepticism that Egypt's military rulers would allow one of their own — a former head of the air force — to be prosecuted in front of the world, the scene went a long way to satisfy one of the key demands that has united protesters since Feb. 11, when Mubarak fell following an 18-day uprising.

"This is the dream of

Egyptians, to see him like this, humiliated like he humiliated them for the last 30 years," said Ghada Ali, the mother of a 17-year-old girl in the city of Alexandria who was shot to death during the crackdown.

"I want to see their heart explode like my daughter's heart exploded from their single bullet," Ali said.

A prosecutor read the charges against Mubarak — that he was an accomplice along with his then-interior minister in the "intentional and premeditated murder of peaceful protesters" and that he and his sons received gifts from a prominent businessman in return for guaranteeing a lowered price in a state land deal.

"Yes, I am here," Mubarak said from his bed, raising his hand slightly when the judge asked him to identify himself and enter a plea. "I deny all these accusations completely," he said wagging his finger. His sons also pleaded not guilty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► This video image, taken from Egyptian State Television, shows 83-year-old former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak lying on a hospital bed inside a cage of mesh and iron bars in a Cairo courtroom yesterday. The scene, shown live on Egypt's state TV, was Egyptians' first look at their former president since Feb. 10, the day before his fall when he gave a defiant speech refusing to resign.

Mubarak's life

Key dates in the life of Hosni Mubarak.

- **May 4, 1928** — Born in the Nile Delta village of Kafr el-Moseilha.
- **April 1975** — Chosen by President Anwar Sadat to be vice-president.
- **June 26, 1995** — Survives an assassination attempt while visiting Ethiopia.
- **Sept. 7, 2005** — First multi-candidate presidential election is held. Mubarak wins.
- **Nov. 2010** — Parliamentary elections are held that opposition parties say are marred by fraud.
- **Jan. 25, 2011** — Thousands of anti-government protesters in Cairo stage the biggest demonstrations in Egypt in years.
- **Jan. 28, 2011** — protests rock Cairo and other cities. Mubarak orders the army out on the streets to restore order.
- **July 14, 2011** — Denies responsibility for killing some 850 protesters by his security forces during Egypt's uprising.

Device attached to teen not explosive: Police

A suspicious device that had been attached to a Sydney teenage girl's neck contained no explosives and appeared to be part of an elaborate hoax, Australian police said Thursday (local time).

In a scene that could have been straight from a Hollywood thriller, bomb squad specialists worked for 10 horrifying hours to free 18-year-old Madeleine Pulver from a bomb-like device she said was chained to her neck by a

"I've been doing this job a long time and this is the first time I've come across anything like this."

MARK MURDOCH, POLICE OFFICIAL

man in disguise who entered her suburban Sydney home in the afternoon. She was not hurt, and officials managed to free her around midnight.

New South Wales state Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch said Thursday that specialists had determined the device contained no explosives. Murdoch said the man apparently had also left a threatening note in the house with specific demands that police would not describe.

"A very, very elaborate hoax as it turned out," Murdoch told reporters. "But it was made and certainly gave the appear-

ance of a legitimate improvised explosive device. We had to treat it seriously until we could prove otherwise and that's exactly what we did and that's why it took so long."

Murdoch said the device had been attached to the girl "by a chain or something similar," which took officers a long time to remove. He declined to describe the disguise the attacker wore.

The drama began on yesterday afternoon in the

upscale Sydney suburb of Mosman when Pulver's family contacted police saying their daughter had been attacked and there was a strange device attached to her.

Bomb technicians, negotiators and detectives rushed to the scene. Nearby homes were evacuated, streets were closed and medical and fire crews waited nearby.

Police said they had no idea why Pulver was targeted, but they said the at-

tack did not appear to be random.

"I hardly think that the elaborate nature and sophistication of this device was the result of someone who picked on someone randomly," Murdoch said.

The family also was at a loss to explain the bizarre attack, he said. "The offender went to a lot of trouble for a particular reason, but what that reason was, police are still working to determine," Murdoch said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Butt-free beach a success in France

A small town in Provence is attracting more vacationing families by turning a stretch of the seafloor into what it calls the first non-smoking beach in France.

Public compliance has surprised even the official who came up with the idea, deputy mayor for the environment, Noel Collura.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN declares more Somali famine areas

The United Nations has declared three new regions in Somalia famine zones, including the internally displaced communities in

the Somali capital Mogadishu.

The UN last month said that two regions in Somalia were suffering from famine.

The latest announcement has raised the number of official famine zones to five.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pat Buchanan says Obama slur accidental

Pat Buchanan says he didn't mean to slur U.S. President Barack Obama by referring to him as "your boy" during a discussion with Al Sharpton.

The former Republican

presidential candidate and current MSNBC analyst appeared on Morning Joe today to explain remarks he made on that network's Sharpton show 12 hours earlier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dying woman vows to hang on till court date

► Right-to-die case expedited
► Judge says time is 'urgent'
► Trial set to start Nov. 15

Deathly ill Gloria Taylor is refusing to die — yet.

Although she is living far longer than her doctors had predicted, she plans to hang on until her right-to-die case is hurried through a B.C. court.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Lynn Smith agreed to a speedy trial for Taylor, who wants a doctor-assisted suicide.

"I am satisfied the time is urgent," Smith told a Vancouver court yesterday.

A four-week summary trial will begin Nov. 15.

Taylor's lawyer, Joe Arvay, said the decision to fast-track the trial means she may now have the chance to use a doctor to help her end her life.

Taylor, 63, has Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, and Arvay said her condition is getting worse.

"Gloria is an amazing woman. She has lived much longer than the doctors had predicted," Arvay said. "She told me she was going to hang on as long as



PHYLLIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

► Gloria Taylor, who has Lou Gehrig's disease, had her right-to-die case fast-tracked yesterday.

"It doesn't make sense that it's legal for me to commit suicide, but it's illegal for someone to help me die at peace."

GLORIA TAYLOR

it took in order for her to exercise her constitutional rights."

Taylor, of West Kelowna, B.C., began experiencing ALS symptoms in 2003. Eighty per cent of people

diagnosed with ALS die within two to five years of being diagnosed.

The court heard Taylor, has difficulty walking and her doctor has told her she will soon need feeding tube inserted.

Taylor, a grandmother, founded a support group for people living with ALS.

She was added to the B.C. Civil Liberties Association's challenge against the law forbidding doctor-assisted suicide in late June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 'damsel in distress'

A Canadian woman dubbed the "damsel in distress" because of the sob stories she told strangers to scam them out of cash has pleaded guilty to larceny charges.

Wendy Price-Baldassari has been sentenced in Massachusetts to three months probation and ordered to pay \$500 in restitution. She also faces deportation to Canada.

One of her stories, police said: She was locked out of her house and her car was out of gas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAVING THE SERPENT

Snakes alive! There's a boa in the bathtub



KATIE TURNER
METRO CALGARY

It wasn't a cat in a tree. But Calgary firefighters handled a stranded-pet case yesterday.

Around 4 a.m., the firefighters responded to an animal-distress call: A boa constrictor was in a bathtub with the water running.

The truth came out in the cold light of day.

Snake owner Sarena Dobmeier had been moving from her suite in Calgary's Ranchlands.

After a long night of packing, she decided to

spend a couple of hours sleeping in her new home — leaving the eight-foot boa, Herc, to be retrieved later.

But during the night puzzled neighbours heard water running and called firefighters.

It seems Herc had brushed up against the faucets and turned on the water in the tub.

Fire spokesperson Brian McAsey said the snake was "pretty friendly" and firefighters had no trouble transporting it to a vet.

Dobmeier said she came back at six in the morning and the neighbours said "You won't believe what happened."

Said McAsey: "It opens itself up nicely for a snakes and ladders joke."

Meet Herc, kids

► Herc the boa constrictor has been taken to schools so kids could be introduced to reptiles.



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TORY PEP TALK

PM visits Rob Ford's barbecue

Stephen Harper says it's time to complete a conservative hat trick and defeat the provincial Liberal government.

The prime minister made an unannounced visit to a barbecue at the family home of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, the populist conservative elected last fall on a platform of ending what Ford called the municipi-

pal "gravy train."

In a YouTube video of Harper's speech to invited guests in the Etobicoke backyard of Ford's mother, the prime minister says he and Ford are each cleaning up a "left-wing mess."

And with a provincial election coming, Harper told the crowd it is time to "complete the hat trick and do it provincially as well."

Polls suggest Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberals face a stiff challenge from Tim Hudak's Progressive Conservatives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Volatile markets pummel Italy, Spain

Italy and Spain saw their economies take a beating yesterday as market turmoil threatened to plunge the countries into Europe's debt crisis.

After a volatile day on markets, in which Italian borrowing rates touched a record high, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi vowed to focus his policies on the economy. Addressing parliament in Rome after financial markets had closed for the day, he said Italy needs to promote competitiveness and growth.

He said the 70-billion-euro austerity measures passed last month will balance the budget by 2014, and emphasized that nine-billion-euro infrastructure projects mostly in the poorer south will help promote growth.

He said investors who were pushing up Italy's borrowing rates did not



► Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi

recognize the country's solid banking system.

Spain was also under the market spotlight, forcing Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero to delay his vacation by two days. Its 10-year borrowing rate edged down slightly yesterday, but both countries' bond yields have soared in recent days, suggesting investors are worried they may eventually need help with their debt.

Debt reckoning

► Italy has debt nearing 120 per cent of economic output.

► Spain is struggling with a swollen deficit and a jobless rate of nearly 21 per cent, one of the highest in Europe.

The revival of the debt crisis is mainly due to a global sell-off by traders of any investments that appear risky, such as the bonds of Italy and Spain.

Bailouts for Spain or Italy would be far more expensive than the rescue packages agreed for Greece, Ireland and Portugal and would likely overwhelm the eurozone's finances.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No 'Shady RATs' here, agency says

- Canadian group denies it was hit by cyber-attacks
- McAfee report says anyone can fall prey to intrusions




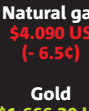
The World Anti-Doping Agency says it "has yet to be convinced" that it was one of four Canadian operations targeted in an international hacking scam.

Security firm McAfee named the Montreal-based agency in a report released yesterday, saying its systems were compromised for 14 months starting in August 2009.

McAfee dubbed the hacker scheme Operation Shady RAT, with RAT being a common acronym in the computer industry meaning Remote Access Tool.

The agency concedes there was a breach of its email servers in February 2008, but says it has no ev-

Market moment

TSX	Dollar
	
+ 63.71 (12,816.03)	- 0.25¢ (103.89¢ US)
Oil	Natural gas
	
- \$1.86 (\$91.93 US)	\$4.090 US (- 6.5¢) Gold \$1,666.30 US (+ \$21.80)

idence of other violations.

David Skillicorn of Queen's University says such skepticism illustrates a stark reality: Most organizations don't know

when they've been compromised. He says the McAfee report, which cited 72 intrusions worldwide from the same source over the past five years, was based on reliable research and is probably accurate.

McAfee also says two unidentified Canadian government agencies were targeted, the first in October 2009 for six months and the second in January 2010 for one month.

It says the governments of the U.S., Taiwan, India, South Korea and Vietnam were also on the target list, along with the IOC, the UN and many companies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swaziland gets loan amid unrest

South Africa will give a \$354-million US loan to help ease a crippling financial crisis that has sparked massive protests

in Swaziland, but the bailout is conditional on economic and human-rights reforms, officials said.

Critics accuse King Mswati III of mismanagement and corruption, and many Swazi pro-democracy activists oppose the loan.

But South African offi-

cials said yesterday the loan will be subjected to regular audits to ensure conditions are met.

Swaziland has struggled to manage a growing budget deficit that has caused widespread shortages of medications and spurred pro-democracy protests in the absolute monarchy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadline extended for proposed TMX takeover

A consortium trying to take over the operator of the Toronto stock exchange is giving investors until Sept. 30 to decide whether they want to tender their shares.

Maple Group Acquisition Corp. said yesterday that it is extending the deadline while it waits for required approvals to purchase TMX Group Inc., and will further extend the deadline if necessary. Maple has said it expects securities regulators and the federal Competition Bureau to make a ruling by the fall.

The investors in Maple Group include 13 of Canada's largest financial heavyweights including the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, the On-

tario Teachers' Pension Plan, several banks and Manulife Financial.

Maple Group is the only suitor remaining to buy TMX Group after a proposed merger with the London Stock Exchange was killed because there was not enough TMX shareholder support.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$3.8B

Maple Group is offering \$3.8 billion to acquire 70 to 80 per cent of the shares of TMX Group Inc., part of an integrated acquisition transaction to obtain 100 per cent of TMX shares.

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- 6 Pitbull ft Ne-Yo & Nayer - Everything Tonight
- 7 Nicole Scherzinger ft 50 Cent - Right There
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PARENTAL ADVISORY: CLOCK'S TICKING

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO



For their summer vacation my parents have been visiting me in Toronto from Saint John, N.B., and so far I've had a lovely time taking them to restaurants, touring museums and preparing their eulogies. My parents are only 54, which is young for parents, but 54 is also the average temperature difference between the two cities. In Saint John, a beautiful morning is one where the fog will burn off in time for the evening commute, while in Toronto I've been known to chase refreshing breezes down the street, screaming at them to come back.

So my parents have been attempting to have a good time, largely successfully, despite melting like plastic

"When the switch to caretaker is complete, I plan to make them eat their vegetables and play outside on sunny days, even if their favourite show is on."

army men under a magnifying glass. Dad, in particular, looks like he could do that body-shake dogs do when they've just crawled out of a lake — except instead of laughing playfully the people nearby would run like they were fleeing a nuclear meltdown.

Aside from the risk of Mom and Dad spontaneously combusting, there's also the fact I rarely see them, meaning new ailments they've acquired during the past year come as a

mild shock. My mother has a new knee problem that makes stairs seem like the equivalent of a military rope climb, and my dad's so farsighted now that he holds menus out in front of him like he's driving a go-kart.

They've become my canaries in the coal mine, essentially, telling me which things are going to fall apart on me first.

So I watch Mom and Dad with a blend of admiration and worry, the beginning of that role reversal families go through where eventually the kids are looking after the parents. I fret after every parental wince, as they did for me when I was a kid (presumably).

And as I write this sentence, I haven't heard from them in seven hours and don't understand why they haven't called. Don't they know I'm worried sick? What if they're lost on the streets of Toronto? They won't know what to do.

After all I've done for them.

When the switch to caretaker is complete, I plan to make them eat their vegetables and play outside on sunny days, even if their favourite show is on.

But before the role reversal happens, I also want to say thank you to them, not only because they've been my guides, my support and my friends, but also because I fully expect them to be dead by the end of the week.

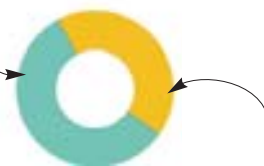
Just remember, readers, that they were kind people, they were good people...



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and take the quick poll

Would you brave Edgewalk at Toronto's CN Tower?

57%
YEP. EASY AS
PIE IN THE
SKY



42%
NOPE. CHICKENS
DON'T FLY FOR A
REASON

Letters

RE: A particle of hope amid tragedy, published July 29.

Mr. Sullivan, you write some pretty glib remarks in your editorials, but I believe your crass remark about Jack Layton as "the champagne socialist" has to be one of the most crass I've read.

Layton is leader of a social democratic party, not socialist. Your flippancy is really quite uncalled for at this time during serious illness.

PEGGY O'NEILL
EDMONTON

RE: Hey — can I get your number? published August 2.

Hi Jessica. You may be very interested in one man's enlightened opinion with respect to women, empowerment, sexuality and the whole "what is a respectable number" debate, including the whole notion of women being perceived as "sluts" for enjoying sex too much.

Look up Johnny Soporno's online web tutorial/videos on being a worthy playboy, where he discusses the societal psychology surrounding women's sexuality. Thanks for the great column today!

DAVID CORMICAN
TORONTO

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

One little peacock sitting on a wall...

A peacock with a sense of adventure — and a good sense of direction — has flown back home to New York's Central Park Zoo.

On Tuesday, humans flocked and tweeted as the peacock left the zoo for a

perch on a Fifth Avenue window ledge. It had good taste: A condo there reportedly sold for \$22.5 million in 2009.

Zookeepers predicted the handsome green and blue bird would make its way home — and it did just before 7 a.m. local time yesterday.

It's been a rebellious season in the city zoos. In March, an Egyptian cobra was found nearly a week after

FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

it went missing at the Bronx Zoo's Reptile House.

Two months later, a zoo peahen was recovered at a nearby auto-body shop.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



►The fly-away peacock

2
scene

News in brief



Oprah Winfrey, James Earl Jones and makeup artist Dick Smith have been picked to receive honorary Oscars. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences says the three will be honoured with Oscar statuettes at the Governors Awards in November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Gay and lesbian group supports diversity efforts at ABC Family. Scan code for more.



► Broken Social Scene is headed to Alderney Landing this Sunday.

The more the merrier

► Broken Social Scene is known for its large stage presence ► Band to play at M-Fest

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNA CONTER
METRO HALIFAX



At any one time Canada's indie rock band, Broken Social Scene (BSS), can have anywhere from six to near 20 musicians on stage.

A musical collective of sorts, concert goes to Sunday's M-Fest at Alderney Landing will have to wait to see who headliner BSS will bring.

From its beginnings as a

basement-band, according to founding member, Brendan Canning, the growth was very natural.

"When some people can't show up for one show, you get a couple different people playing one gig and eventually you have a 13-person band," Canning told me over the phone.

Toted as a musical "super group," Canning is hesitant to accept the title, insisting that BSS' unusual cohesiveness is merely the product of having made too many friends.

"We were making music and after so many years you just have a lot of friends," he said. "That's

Goodbye NoLuv

► Friday night will be DJ NoLuv's last evening spinning at Reflections. Don't miss out on your chance to say goodbye to the best DJ in town. And if you've nev-

er had the pleasure of indulging in a NoLuv experience, this is your last chance.

► We wish you well, NoLuv, wherever your next adventure takes you!

all it was. Just getting together with all the friends we've made over the years."

Thanks to BSS, some "friends" have catapulted themselves into their own success, such as Leslie Feist, who joined BSS in the early 2000s.

"It adds more excitement to things when people go off on their own," he

said. "It's nice to have that opportunity to play music without your bandmates."

Thanks to its interesting dynamic and "the more the merrier" inclusions, BSS will continue to keep fans guessing.

"It's going to continue to evolve into different things and who knows exactly what's next around the corner."

A minute with Hey Rosetta!'s Tim Baker

The artistic mind of Hey Rosetta!'s Tim Baker never sleeps.

The Newfoundland native left the rock for school in Montreal and found time to harness his craft. Returning home with a binder of songs, Baker toured his original songs acquiring quite a local following.

"At some point I decided to put together a little group to give the songs what they deserved, more sound than just the guitar and the piano."

With that ambition, Hey Rosetta! was born.

The band graces Alderney Landing this Sunday for M-Fest.

► JENNA CONTER

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Actor perfects the art of aping

► Andy Serkis is performance-capture technology's king ► New film marks uncharted territory for art



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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

If any actor is an expert at performance-capture technology, it's Andy Serkis. Despite popping up as himself plenty of times on screen, Serkis is best known for inhabiting Gollum in *Lord of the Rings* and as the big ape himself in *King Kong*, both for Peter Jackson. He suits up again for Rupert Wyatt's *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* as Caesar, a chimp that starts a revolution.

But as much as he's made a name for himself through performance capture, Serkis doesn't think you should notice. "People

aren't so much wanting to celebrate the technology anymore. Really, that's passe. It's something that we need to get over, really," he says.

Maybe Serkis is so over it because he's had more to do with the technology than most actors. "On *Lord of the Rings*, my performance was shot on 35mm with all the other actors, then I had to go and reshoot in the performance-capture volume. There were not many cameras and the markers didn't quite work and the real-time kept breaking down, so it was very, very early days," he says.

For his latest bit of monkeying around, Serkis donned a motion-capture



► Andy Serkis

suit and head-mounted camera rig, interacting on-set with co-stars James Franco and Freida Pinto. "On *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, it's the first time that performance capture has existed on live-action sets," he says. "We didn't have to go back and repeat anything. We were in real locations with physical sets that were shot on film."



► Actor Andy Serkis, right, plays Caesar, an ape who starts a revolution in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*.



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Lydia's Nova Scotia

Hi, I'm Lydia from Chester. From the raw power of the wind and waves, to the soothing beat of the tide on the shore, our ocean has something for everyone. Get caught up in the excitement of Chester Race Week, enjoy a day on the beach at the Clam Harbour Beach Sandcastle & Sculpture Festival or just sit back and feast on the freshest of fresh seafood. Visit novascotia.com to plan your ocean adventure.

So when are you coming?

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Visit novascotia.com for a full list of festivals & events.

Chester Race Week,
Chester Yacht Club,
August 10 to 13

Dutch Mason Blues Festival,
Truro, August 12 to 14

Hector Festival,
Pictou, August 12 to 14

Clam Harbour Beach
Sandcastle & Sculpture Contest,
Clam Harbour Beach Provincial Park, August 14

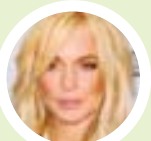
Fête nationale des Acadiens,
Cheticamp, August 15

8th Annual Wedgeport Tuna Tournament,
Wedgeport, August 22 to 27

Celebrity Tweets



"Omg, I'm so embarrassed, paparazzi just blinded me with flashes again, as I was walking into dinner. They pushed me and I tripped :(" @lindsaylohan



@lindsaylohan

Pain can be a gift just not yet revealed. It all depends on how you choose to react to it. Remember it is happening for you, not to you!



@mrskutcher



@DonaldGlover

"My twitter muscle has atrophied."

All the autotune in the world still doesn't sound as cool as talking into a desk fan.



@SethMacFarlane

Fawcett's son arrested

Redmond O'Neal, son of Ryan O'Neal and Farrah Fawcett, is in hot water again, having been arrested for heroin possession in Santa Monica, according to Radar Online.

Police sources say they witnessed O'Neal engaged

in an argument at a store. After the argument, he got into his car and ran a red light. Police then pulled him over and searched his car, where they found the narcotics.

He was held without bail. ● METRO

Winehouse had big plans

► Troubled singer wanted to marry, have children with boyfriend

Amy Winehouse had lots of plans for the future when her life came to an end last month.

Aside from her plans to adopt a young girl from St. Lucia, the tragic singer was reportedly planning to marry boyfriend Reg Traviss, according to the Sun.

"Amy was adamant about sorting herself out. Reg's proposal made her

even more determined. She didn't want to carry on the way she was," a source says.

"She wanted nothing more than to be his wife and to start a family with him.

"She wanted to get rid of her demons so badly."

Winehouse was found dead in her home in Camden, London on July .23.

● METRO



► Amy Winehouse was determined to clean up her life, says a source.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Janet engaged

Janet Jackson is reportedly engaged to Qatari businessman and billionaire Wissam Al Mana — and has been for almost a year, according to Hollyscoop.

Sources say the secret proposal happened last year, but Jackson was in the middle of a tour and wasn't ready to go public with it yet.

"Janet's telling friends that an official engagement will come by summer's end, and that she and Wissam will marry in



► Janet Jackson

late 2011," says a source close to the singer.

● METRO

Glee star dishes on looks

Glee star Lea Michele is the first to admit she doesn't have the most conventional Hollywood look.

"I'm 5-foot-3. I don't

look like a lot of other people, you know what I mean? I look like I'm 12," the 25-year-old actress tells Harper's Bazaar.

"How many managers told me, 'Get a nose job. You're not pretty enough?' But I proved them wrong," she says.

● METRO

Lautner buys new ride

Talk about an impulse purchase.

Twilight star Taylor Lautner was reportedly walking by a Mercedes Benz dealership in L.A. with his parents recently when he spotted a silver 2012 SLS AMG sports coupe — and simply had to have it, according to TMZ.

The 19-year-old actor dropped more than \$200,000 on the car and drove it off the lot the same day. ● METRO



► Taylor Lautner

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It's summer outside, but it's fall in the mall

► How to sport a style that reflects the very best of both seasons ► Lightweight layers are key

Officially, summer has weeks left on the calendar, but retailers have begun the transition from lightweight and lighthearted vacation clothes to the more dressed-up, sophisticated styles that come with fall fashion.

The tricky part, they say, is that while it's good to infuse the excitement of a new season into stores, shoppers can be so enthusiastic about their new purchases they want to be able to wear them right away.

That can be a problem when traditional fall looks — think sweaters, long trousers and outerwear — might not be suited to the dog days of August.

The solution? Lightweight layers in a deeper, more autumnal colour palette.

"The consumer in general is forward looking but wants instant gratification," says Barclay Resler, vice-president and head of visual management for Esprit.

You can do that with a pretty chiffon blouse, he suggests, or a



KOHL'S



ANN TAYLOR



KOHL'S



THE CHILDREN'S PLACE

short-sleeve knit dress, maybe with some buckle detail at the waist.

Lisa Axelson, head designer of Ann Taylor, has already worn her sleeveless trench — with a silk blouse and cropped black pants — but it'll go with flannel trousers and long gloves later. It is "the perfect wear-now-and-layer-later piece," she says.

Fabric choices are very important, says Banana Republic creative director Simon Kneen, a fan of tropical-weight wool. "It's designed for tropics. It's airy, and the weave is more open, but it will look refined. It has a hand touch that drier and cooler, but you can have it in a dress,

trouser, skirt, jacket — and those are the foundations of your fall closet."

Lightweight chambray denim serves the same purpose for more casual pieces.

Navy is a favourite transitional colour for Resler because it plays crisp and clean against white pants, but more luxurious with

high-waisted trousers in grey, camel or brown. A ruffled, navy-and-white dot blouse in stores now has it all, he says, a cheerful vibe to finish out the summer, but ladylike enough to carry through the year.

Warm shades of orange, amber and green are trends at Kohl's for fall, but they're not dark colours, either, so they fit into a variety of weather landscapes, says David Hacker, vice-president of trend and colour.

Kneen says Banana Republic — and he imagines other retailers, too — has learned to work in the mindset of many mini-fashion seasons filled with versatile pieces instead of sweeping in with major

"The consumer in general is forward looking but wants instant gratification."

BARCLAY RESLER
VICE-PRESIDENT OF ESPRIT

changes twice a year.

As a children's retailer, The Children's Place switched to its back-to-school merchandise in the middle of July to capitalize on the shopping-spree days before kids go back to class.

However, says Michael Giannelli, senior vice-president of design, all he needs to do is walk outside to be reminded that "fall is really a summer delivery."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



JC PENNEY

Becks and H&M team up

David Beckham is getting a new set of teammates through a long-term partnership with H&M. The Swedish chain says the long-term alliance will allow the British athlete to produce and exclusively sell his bodywear line in some 1,800 stores and in about 40 countries worldwide.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Grace Coddington's story from the front row of fashion will be told in a memoir

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Cook up a new kitchen

- Not just for dining and entertaining, this room is the heart of any home
- Short on cash? Concentrate on improvements that are visual and easily changed

DESIGN CENTRE



KARL LOHNES
LIFE@
METRONEWS.CA

Q: I have just moved into a condo that is 12 years

old. I'd like to update the kitchen and am on a tight budget.

- Samantha, Halifax

Updating a tired kitchen is not only a great way to modernize your home but to add re-sale value to your investment.

I recommend a full re-do about every 10 to 15 years

for a kitchen. Once one thing starts to break down or look outdated usually everything else follows.

These ideas should allow your kitchen to feel modernized for another five years or so.

Countertops: Replacing the countertops will help update the old kitchen cupboards and change the overall feel of the kitchen.

Look for a trend-setting counter to add a modern look to the room. Consider non-shiny matte finishes and oiled soapstone for a dramatic look or carrara marble for a lighter look.

Check wilsonart.com for fashionable laminate countertop options.



► ATTEST knobs from Ikea



► ENA 9 One Touch

Hardware: Old colonial-styled brass hardware will



► Keep in mind that most condo buildings have strict renovation rules even for cosmetic changes like tiles, flooring and countertops.

instantly outdate your kitchen cupboards. Try replacing them with knobs or pulls with a sleek design in a sliver metal finish.

My favourite are the AT-TEST Knob from Ikea, which are excellent value at \$7.99 for a two-pack!

A few stainless countertop appliances: If major stainless steel appliances are not in your budget, invest in a few useful countertop appliances.

Depending on the size of your kitchen, a new coffee machine, blender and toaster will add sparkle and modernization.

My dream machine these days is the high-end ENA 9 espresso maker by Jura. It will definitely give a luxurious look to any

kitchen.

Focal wall and backsplash: Consider applying peel-and-stick vinyl tiles onto the walls rather than floors. They are waterproof and extremely durable and inexpensive way to add pizzazz.

Vinyl tiles usually come in 12-by-12 inches and are easily cut and applied. At \$1 to \$4 per square foot, they are a great way to change an outdated backsplash.

Choose a colour/style of tile that blends well with the cupboards. Classic travertine or sandstone looks will keep guests assuming that you have the real thing on the walls.

Home Depot's assorted Tarkett vinyl tiles offer tex-

Shine a little light

Under cabinet lighting will instantly give your updated kitchen a designer look.

► Easy, plug-in lighting kits are available at most home improvement retailers.

► Screw a string of lights under the upper cabinet and plug it in — your counters will glow with style.

tured vinyl tiles that look just like real stone.

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Weekly Cookbook



Especially during the summer, you want to enjoy life's sweeter side without tipping the scales. That's where *Sweet & Skinny* by Marisa Churchill (Clarkson Potter, 2011) comes in.

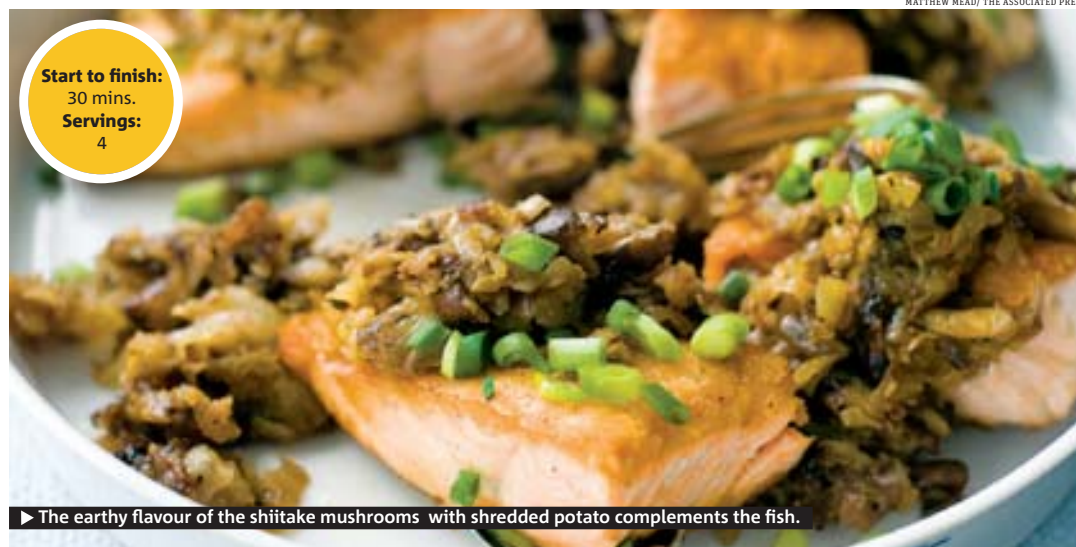
In her debut book, Churchill, a pastry chef, presents 100 low-fat recipes (including 25 sugar-free variations). From quick weeknight desserts that take less than 30 minutes to elegant finales for dinner parties and holidays, *Sweet & Skinny* has everything to satisfy your cravings.

Among the recipes are: Red Velvet Cupcakes, Boston Cream Pie, Coconut Cake, Chocolate Peanut Butter Cups, Pecan Sticky-Bun Coffee Cake and many others.

Bring on the healthy fat

► Salmon's unsaturated fats are key to its moist texture ► Team it with a mushroom hash

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Start to finish:
30 mins.
Servings:
4

► The earthy flavour of the shiitake mushrooms with shredded potato complements the fish.

Though relatively high in fat — especially compared to most white fish — salmon is a great choice for a healthy diet.

That's because salmon's fats fall mostly in the good-for-your-heart unsaturated category. Which is a happy coincidence, because that fat happens to be key to salmon's moist texture

and rich, indulgent flavour. It also makes it a breeze to cook. The oils in salmon make it hard to overcook and dry out.

So for a simple and healthy summer dinner, we've paired salmon with a mushroom hash. The earthy flavour of shiitake mushrooms mixed with shredded potatoes comple-

ments the rich fish. And a touch of soy sauce lends a pleasantly salty touch to cut through the oil.

Salmon with Shiitake Mushrooms

Preparation:

1 In large sauté pan over high, heat 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the olive oil. Add

mushrooms and sauté until well-browned, about 10 minutes. Lower heat to medium-high, then add the shallots and onion. Sauté for 6 to 8 minutes, or until the onion becomes soft. Add the potatoes and continue to cook until the potatoes are tender and beginning to

Ingredients:

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil, divided
- 175 grams (6 oz) shiitake mushrooms, stemmed and sliced
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 1 small red onion, chopped
- 2 small red potatoes, grated
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) low-sodium soy sauce
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- Four 125-gram (4-oz) salmon fillets
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced

brown. Season with the soy sauce and black pepper.

2 In another large sauté pan over medium-high, heat the remaining tablespoon of olive oil. Cook salmon fillets for 5 minutes per side, or to desired doneness. Serve each piece of salmon with the shiitake hash. Top everything with a sprinkling of scallions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wheat berries: a fresh taste

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO



► This recipe makes four servings.

Fresh peas in this salad are combined with wheat berries. These 'softened wheat kernels' are a tasty and economical change from rice or pasta that can be found in bulk food stores. Cook a larger quantity than needed, then just drain and freeze for an

easy meal another day.

Preparation:

1 In a large saucepan, bring wheat berries and at least 2 l (8 cups) water to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 1 1/2 hours or until tender. Add peas; simmer

for 2 minutes. Drain and rinse well in colander. Set aside in colander to continue to drain.

2 Meanwhile, cut bacon into bite-size pieces. Cook in a skillet over medium-low heat until lightly crisped; drain on paper towel-lined plate. Keep warm.

3 In a large bowl, whisk together lemon juice, honey and hot pepper flakes. Add drained wheat berry mixture, onion and coriander; toss well. Season with salt and pepper. (Salad can be prepared up to 24 hours ahead; cover and refrigerate. Serve at room temperature.)

4 Line 4 dinner plates with arugula. Top with wheat berry mixture and warm

bacon pieces. Garnish with tomato halves and, if desired, fresh mint leaves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/
FOODLAND ONTARIO

Ingredients:

- 250 ml (1 cup) wheat berries, rinsed
- 250 ml (1 cup) peas
- 250 g (8 oz) slab bacon, about 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) lemon juice
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) honey
- 0.5 ml (1/8 tsp) hot

- pepper flakes
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped red onion
- (1/2 cup) chopped fresh coriander
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1.5 l (6 cups) arugula
- 500 ml (2 cups or 1 pint) cherry tomatoes, halved
- mint leaves (optional)

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4
sports

Quoted



"Clearly I think it's a bit unfortunate for Canada to have two big events like this at the very same time. But I guess it's sometimes what it is."

ROGER FEDERER, WHO IS NOT A FAN OF THE ROGERS CUP'S NEW FORMAT THAT WILL SEE TORONTO AND MONTREAL EACH HOSTING TOURNAMENTS AT THE SAME TIME INSTEAD OF OVER BACK-TO-BACK WEEKS, IT'S PART OF A WTA TOUR AND ATP TOUR INITIATIVE FOR A HANDFUL OF TOURNAMENTS THIS SEASON, WHERE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DRAWS WILL BE COMBINED INTO ONE EVENT.



► Jaden Schwartz kisses his sister's urn during a funeral for Mandi Schwartz in Wilcox, Sask., on April 8, 2011.

Sister's death shapes young hockey player

► Jaden Schwartz works through grief of losing sibling to cancer while he attends the Canadian junior team's summer camp in Edmonton

Jaden Schwartz views the world through a different lens than many other hockey players his age.

In conversation, Schwartz seems older than his 19 years. Watching his sister Mandi succumb to cancer earlier this year changed his perspective on his life.

Hockey is important to him, as it was to Mandi. Schwartz fractured his ankle in the second game of world junior hockey championship in Buffalo, N.Y., this year and watched from

the sidelines as the Canadian team collapsed in the third period of the gold-medal game and lost to Russia.

That stung, but Mandi was fighting for her life at home in Wilcox, Sask., while he was at the tournament.

"Obviously me getting hurt, that's nothing compared to what she went through," Schwartz said. "Obviously the loss is tough for everybody and it's a learning experience, but when you see Mandi go

through that, it puts things in perspective and you know what's most important in life.

"It really changes you in a different way."

Mandi, who played for the Yale Bulldogs women's hockey team, died April 3 of leukemia at the age of 23. Schwartz, brother Rylan — a teammate at Colorado College — and parents Rick and Carol are working through their grief this summer.

"It's obviously been tough," Schwartz said.

"Without family and friends, I don't know if it's possible to get through something like that. I can't even start to explain how much it means to us.

"Mandi helped us a lot too, knowing how strong she was and how she supported us. I know she wouldn't want us to be sad all the time and down. She'd want us to keep on trucking. Her favourite motto was 'struggle and emerge' and that's what we're trying to do."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian aids NFL teammate who suffers seizure

Canadian rookie lineman Danny Watkins put his first-aid skills to good use yesterday when a Philadelphia Eagles teammate suffered a seizure at training camp.

Watkins, a trained firefighter from Kelowna, B.C., provided assistance when defensive tackle Mike Patterson dropped to the ground at morning practice and started violently shaking. Patterson was also tended to by team trainer Rick Burkholder and his staff before being transported to Lehigh Valley Hospital.

The six-foot-one, 300-pound player is stable and was scheduled to undergo further tests, Burkholder said.

Patterson, 28, was the Eagles' first-round pick out of USC in 2005. He's started 84 games and played in 95, the most of anybody on the current roster.

Watkins, 26, has played just four years of competitive football.

He took up the sport while studying firefighting science at Butte Community College in Northern California in 2007.

"You never want to see a player go down like that," Watkins said.

"The staff said he's going to be fine. Hopes and prayers are going to be with him tonight."

Patterson's agent JR Rickett said in a statement that the player is "in no pain and doing well."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

Lions swing deal for Bruce

CFL. The B.C. Lions are gambling veteran receiver Arland Bruce will give them a spark to help the struggling team turn its season around.

B.C. obtained Bruce from the Hamilton Tiger-

Cats yesterday in a trade for a third-round draft pick in 2012 and an additional conditional selection.

The Lions, the CFL's only winless team at 0-5, are hoping Bruce brings some veteran experience to a young receiving corps that has dropped passes at critical times.

Bruce is expected to play slotback along with Geroy Simon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Illegal poker probe for A-Rod

Major League Baseball plans to interview Alex Rodriguez as it investigates allegations the New York Yankees star took part in illegal celebrity poker games.

MLB said in a statement yesterday: "We take this very seriously and have been investigating this matter since the initial al-

legation. As part of the investigation, the commissioner's office will interview Mr. Rodriguez."

Star Magazine reported last month that several people saw A-Rod playing at one of the games hosted at Hollywood hotels and private residences; his spokesman denied then that he participated.

MLB said then that the report was the first the commissioner's office had heard about the accusation and baseball officials would look into the matter.

A spokesman for the Yankees declined comment when asked about Rodriguez.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians charging to top of standings

► Canadians, Dry prep for home-and-home showdown ► Canadians host Dry on Saturday at 2 p.m., visit Beazley Field Sunday at 2 p.m.



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

It didn't look possible a month ago, but the Halifax Pelham Molson Canadians are suddenly within striking distance of first place.

The Canadians have gone 7-1 in their past eight games — including a current five-game winning streak — and sit 2½ games back of Dartmouth Moosehead Dry in the Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League standings.

With a home-and-home set coming up this weekend against the Dry (16-5), Halifax (13-7) is hoping to make its move.

"If we can sweep this weekend or even split, we still have a chance at first place," said co-coach and starting pitcher Mark Haverstock. "That's our goal and we're sticking with it."

The Canadians have been winning despite a depleted pitching staff after losing three-time all-star lefthander Barrett Bellefontaine with an elbow injury.

Haverstock and Steve Ivey have carried much of the pitching load, combining for seven wins and 62 strikeouts, while Ryan Veinot (.360), Adam Lucas (.348) and Mark Pelham



► Adam Lucas, one of the Halifax Pelham Molson Canadians' leading hitters, rounds the bases.

(.329) have led the bats.

"Everything's going right at the right times," Haverstock said. "We've had some really good defensive games and no matter what happens on the field, good or bad, we keep

playing and the bats are coming around at the right time."

Halifax has a spot at the Canadian senior baseball championships from Aug. 25 to 29 in Miramichi, N.B., and is hoping to keep its

current momentum going.

"We're trying to plug away at first place and keep things rolling into nationals," Haverstock said. "If we get the bats going at the right times, everything should go as planned."

Royals won't feature Stairs

Baseball Canada has ruled major-league veteran Matt Stairs ineligible to play for the Fredericton Royals at the Canadian senior baseball championship in Miramichi, N.B., later this month.

The Daily Gleaner newspaper in Fredericton reported yesterday Stairs was required to apply for amateur status by July 1 in order to play at nationals.

The 43-year-old was released by the Washington

Nationals on Monday and the Daily Gleaner reports he will "likely" announce his retirement today.

Stairs played for 13 teams in his 19-year major-league career, recording 265 home runs among 1,366 hits. His 23 pinch-hit homers are a major-league record.

Stairs told the paper he will consider coaching the Royals. Nationals will be played from Aug. 25 to 29.

● MATTHEW WUEST



► Matt Stairs swings away with the Washington Nationals last month.

MacKinnon to be U-17 'top guy'

Nathan MacKinnon shook off the summer rust at the Atlantic under-17 selection camp last month and apparently looked good doing it.

The 15-year-old centre was one of 44 players on the ice in Wolfville as the coaching staff got their first look at players who could be part of the squad's 22-player roster at the world under-17 challenge in Windsor, Ont., in December.

"Nathan looked really good — of course he looked good, he's a heck of a player," said head coach Eric Bissonnette. "He's going to be our top guy and we expect that from him. He had a good camp with us in Wolfville."

MacKinnon, who will hit the ice at Halifax Mooseheads training camp start-



ing Aug. 17, had five goals and three assists in five games at last year's world under-17.

Bissonnette said the biggest challenge will be finding linemates who have chemistry with MacKinnon.

"He'll have to be a top guy for us to be successful," Bissonnette said. "We hope he'll be our leader, our guy who gets us going, and he has the ability to do that."

● MATTHEW WUEST

White inks deal to join Sharks

New Glasgow's Colin White has landed on his feet with the San Jose Sharks.

A day after being bought out of the final season of his six-year, \$18-million contract with the New Jersey Devils, the 33-year-old de-

fenceman inked a one-year deal with the Sharks.

He will earn \$1 million US, according to the San Jose Mercury News.

White, who won two Stanley Cups with the Devils in 2000 and 2003, is an 11-year NHL veteran. He had six assists in 69 games last season.

The Devils saved \$2 million in cap space this season by buying him out.

● METRO



Sim back in NHL with Islanders

New Glasgow's Jon Sim has signed a one-year, two-way deal with the New York Islanders.

Sim had a goal and three assists in 34 games with the Islanders last season before he left for Switzerland and had his contract terminated. He had one goal in seven games with Gotteron of the Swiss National League A.

This will be Sim's fifth season with the Islanders since inking a three-year, \$3-million contract with them in 2007. ● METRO

Pre-season Mooseheads seats on sale

Tickets are on sale now for the Halifax Mooseheads' three pre-season games at the Halifax Forum.

The Mooseheads host the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles on Saturday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m.; the Bathurst Titan on Friday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m.; and the Moncton Wildcats on Saturday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m.

Prices are \$6 in advance and \$7 game-day. A three-game pass is available for \$15. The Mooseheads open training camp on Aug. 17 at the Forum. ● METRO

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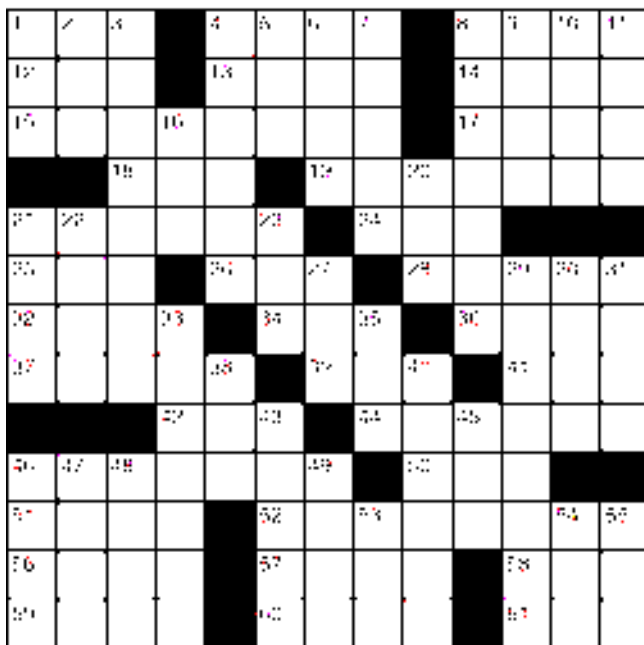
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Crossword

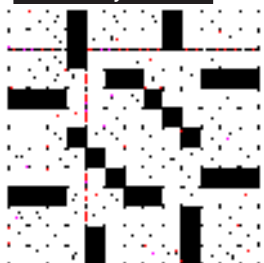
Across

- 1 Six-pack muscles
- 4 "Huh?"
- 8 Slender
- 12 Speck
- 13 Ginormous
- 14 Last few notes
- 15 Good poker hand
- 17 Stead
- 18 Possess
- 19 Weapon collection
- 21 San Fernando, for one
- 24 Melody
- 25 Have a bug
- 26 Witnessed
- 28 Stickum
- 32 March 15, e.g.
- 34 Central
- 36 Bring to a halt
- 37 Bold
- 39 Roscoe
- 41 Regret
- 42 Conger, e.g.
- 44 Coy
- 46 Puts in the wrong place
- 50 Tatter
- 51 Help slyly
- 52 Vigor
- 56 Paddock papa
- 57 "My bad"
- 58 Writer Buscaglia
- 59 Despot
- 60 Dalai —
- 61 Tackle's teammate
- Down**
- 1 Billboards
- 2 Automaton, for short
- 3 Modern-day pram
- 4 Complains feebly
- 5 Embrace
- 6 Ottoman bigwig

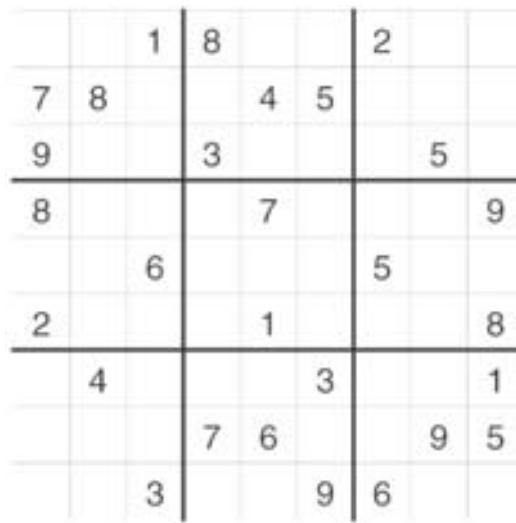


- 7 Aquarium fish
- 8 Eyeball coats
- 9 Pork cut
- 10 Concept
- 11 Manhandle
- 16 Piercing tool
- 20 Taste
- 21 Futile
- 22 Staffer
- 23 Sweet potato kin
- 27 Peruke
- 29 Fight
- 30 Go sightseeing
- 31 Duel tool
- 33 Less corpulent
- 35 Old man
- 38 Verily
- 40 Singer Brewer
- 43 Disinfectant brand
- 45 Chap
- 46 Spar
- 47 Wading bird
- 48 Antitoxins
- 49 Old portico
- 53 Spinning stat
- 54 Coffee break hour
- 55 Scuttle

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



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Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

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2	1	8	3	7	6	9	4	5
3	4	6	1	5	9	8	2	7
8	7	3	9	6	2	1	5	4
4	5	1	7	8	3	6	9	2
9	6	2	5	4	1	7	3	8
7	2	9	8	3	4	5	1	6
6	3	5	2	1	7	4	8	9
1	8	4	6	9	5	2	7	3

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Lu, I miss you. I love you. You're never far from my heart or my thoughts. Pleases come home. I'll be waiting. **NA**

Lucky Lukey, I admire your optimism, your strength, your brilliance, and beauty. You have been there for me through crazy times, and with you I feel I can conquer anything. To my partner in crime, my best friend, my lover, my adventurer, I hope to give you all you have given me in the years to come. **DAZED**

Bubble in a soda pop, I am thankful everyday to have you in my life and even though it's only been 6 months I can say you're absolutely the only one for me, my best friend, my lover and my soulmate! You are my rock and cause of you I'm a better person. **LOVE BUG**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

Someone in a position of power will say nice things about you. His or her flattery has other motives.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Don't let a rival drive a wedge between you and someone you love.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 If someone tries to take liberties, you must deal with him or her harshly. Tread on toes if you must.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 If you let something that seems trivial pass today, others will take it as a sign you can be bullied.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

Do what you can to please a person whose support you rely on but don't go to extremes or make empty promises.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Others will respect you more today if you say what you mean and mean what you say.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Stop worrying that not all your plans have worked out as expected.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The more others appeal to your sense of duty, the more you should be suspicious of their motives.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Don't trust what you are told just because the person doing the telling is some sort of expert.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 The only way out of your predicament is to face your unhappiness.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Family members need to be reminded that you care about their wellbeing. Spend time with them.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. If someone at work acts out of character, think about it and ask how you can help. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest



WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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